

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01846 301932Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 112578

R 301233Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7206

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

AMCONSUL HAMILTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1846

EXDIS

FROM USLOS DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: SITE OF SEABED AUTHORITY

REFS: A) HAMILTON 123; B) HAMILTON 129; C) USUN 1642

1. AS PREDICTED BY AMCONSUL HAMILTON, JUDGE SEATON OF BERMUDA RAISED QUESTION OF SITE OF SEABED AUTHORITY WITH US ON APRIL 26. HE RECOGNIZED THAT JAMAICA AND MALTA ALREADY HAD THEIR BIDS IN. HE SAID BERMUDA GOVERNMENT WAS STOPPING SHORT OF LOBBYING AT THIS STAGE, AND REQUESTED OUR VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ON CONFERENCE WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN A DEPENDENT TERRITORY. SEATON ALSO ASKED WHAT INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS WOULD ARISE FROM THE CONFERENCE.

2. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION, SEATON SAID THAT WHILE THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT JAMAICA HAD THE SITE OF THE AUTHORITY WRAPPED UP, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS WERE IN FACT NERVOUS ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN JAMAICA, AND THERE WERE RUMORS THAT THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF SEABED AUTHORITY PERSONNEL AND DELEGATES.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01846 301932Z

3. IN RESPONSE TO SEATON'S QUESTION ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WE IDENTIFIED THREE: THE SEABED AUTHORITY; THE ENTERPRISE (DIRECT EXPLOITATION ARM OF THE SEABED AUTHORITY) WHICH MIGHT CONCEIBABLY NOT BE LOCATED IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THEIR SEPARATE FUNCTIONS; AND, IF CREATED, A LAW OF THE SEA TRIBUNAL WHICH IN ALL PROBABILITY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE LOCATED IN THE SAME PLACE AS THE SEABED AUTHORITY BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES OF COASTAL STATES AND OTHERS ABOUT LIMITING THE SCOPE OF THE AUTHORITY'S FUNCTIONS (THE LOS TRIBUNAL TO DISTINGUISHED FROM SEABED TRIBUNAL, WHICH WOULD BE AN ORGAN OF THE AUTHORITY). WE INDICATED THAT THE USG HAD TAKEN NO FORMAL POSITION ON THE SITE OF THE AUTHORITY, BUT PREDICTED THAT BERMUDA'S SITUATION WOULD DEPEND IN PART IN JAMAICA'S POSITION. WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT RESPOND TO THE REMARKS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN JAMAICA. WHEN ASKED ABOUT MALITA WE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE NATURAL FOR ANY STATE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ATTITUDES OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND THAT IN ANY EVENT THERE SEEMED TO BE A STRONG FEELING AMONG LATIN AMERICAN STATES THAT THE AUTHORITY SHOULD BE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** LOS: SITE OF SEABED AUTHORITY  
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